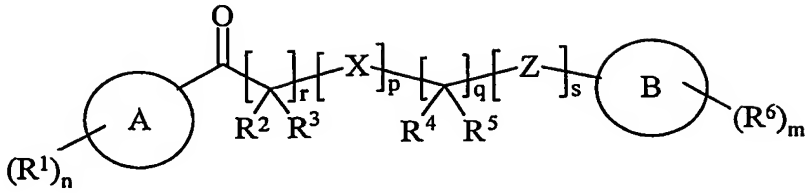
CLAIMS

1. A compound of formula (I):



(I)

wherein:

Ring A is selected from aryl or heteroaryl;

R^1 is selected from halo, nitro, cyano, hydroxy, amino, carboxy, carbamoyl, mercapto, sulphamoyl, C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{2-6}alkenyl, C_{2-6}alkynyl, C_{1-6}alkoxy, C_{1-6}alkanoyl, C_{1-6}alkanoyloxy, *N*-(C_{1-6}alkyl)amino, *N,N*-(C_{1-6}alkyl)$_2$amino, C_{1-6}alkanoylamino, *N*-(C_{1-6}alkyl)carbamoyl, *N,N*-(C_{1-6}alkyl)$_2$carbamoyl, C_{1-6}alkylS(O)$_a$ wherein a is 0 to 2, C_{1-6}alkoxycarbonyl, *N*-(C_{1-6}alkyl)sulphamoyl, *N,N*-(C_{1-6}alkyl)$_2$sulphamoyl, C_{1-6}alkylsulphonylamino, carbocyclyl, heterocyclyl, carbocyclylC_{0-6}alkylene-Y- and heterocyclylC_{0-6}alkylene-Y-; or two R^1 on adjacent carbons may form an oxyC_{1-4}alkoxy group or a C_{3-5}alkylene group; wherein R^1 may be optionally substituted on carbon by one or more groups selected from R^7; and wherein if said heterocyclyl contains an -NH- moiety that nitrogen may be optionally substituted by a group selected from R^8;

n is 0-3; wherein the values of R^1 may be the same or different;

R^2, R^3, R^4 and R^5 are independently selected from hydrogen, hydroxy, amino, cyano, C_{1-4}alkyl, C_{1-4}alkoxy, *N*-(C_{1-4}alkyl)amino, *N,N*-(C_{1-4}alkyl)$_2$amino, C_{1-4}alkylS(O)$_a$ wherein a is 0 to 2, C_{1-4}alkoxycarbonyl, C_{1-4}alkoxycarbonylamino, C_{1-4}alkanoyloxy, carbocyclyl, heterocyclyl, carbocyclylC_{1-4}alkyl and heterocyclylC_{1-4}alkyl; or R^2 and R^3 together form oxo or a spiro attached heterocyclyl; wherein R^2, R^3, R^4 and R^5 may be independently optionally substituted on carbon by one or more groups selected from R^9; and wherein if said heterocyclyl contains an -NH- moiety that nitrogen may be optionally substituted by a group selected from R^{10};

X and **Z** are independently selected from -$CR^{11}R^{12}$-, -S(O)$_a$-, -O-, -NR^{13}-, -C(O)-, -C(O)NR^{14}-, -NR^{15}C(O)-, -OC(O)-, -C(O)O-, -SO_2NR^{16}- or -$NR^{16}SO_2$-; wherein a is 0 to 2;

r is 1 or 2;

q is 0 or 1;

p is 0 or 1;

s is 0 or 1;

Ring B is carbocyclyl or heterocyclyl; wherein if said heterocyclyl contains an -NH- moiety that nitrogen may be optionally substituted by a group selected from R^{17};

R^6 is a substituent on carbon and is selected from halo, nitro, cyano, hydroxy, amino, carboxy, carbamoyl, mercapto, sulphamoyl, trifluoromethyl, trifluoromethoxy, C_{1-4}alkyl, C_{2-4}alkenyl, C_{2-4}alkynyl, C_{1-4}alkoxy, C_{1-4}alkanoyl, C_{1-4}alkanoyloxy, *N*-(C_{1-4}alkyl)amino, *N,N*-(C_{1-4}alkyl)$_2$amino, C_{1-4}alkanoylamino, *N*-(C_{1-4}alkyl)carbamoyl, *N,N*-(C_{1-4}alkyl)$_2$carbamoyl, C_{1-4}alkylS(O)$_a$ wherein a is 0 to 2, C_{1-4}alkoxycarbonyl, *N*-(C_{1-4}alkyl)sulphamoyl, *N,N*-(C_{1-4}alkyl)$_2$sulphamoyl, C_{1-4}alkylsulphonylamino, carbocyclyl, heterocyclyl, carbocyclylC_{0-4}alkylene-Y- and heterocyclylC_{0-4}alkylene-Y-; wherein R^6 may be optionally substituted on carbon by one or more groups selected from R^{18}; and wherein if said heterocyclyl contains an -NH- moiety that nitrogen may be optionally substituted by a group selected from R^{19};

m is 0-3; wherein the values of R^6 may be the same or different;

Y is -S(O)$_a$-, -O-, -NR^{20}-, -C(O)-, -C(O)NR^{21}-, -NR^{22}C(O)- or -SO$_2$NR^{23}-; wherein a is 0 to 2;

R^7, **R^9** and **R^{18}** are independently selected from halo, nitro, cyano, hydroxy, amino, carboxy, carbamoyl, mercapto, sulphamoyl, trifluoromethyl, trifluoromethoxy, C_{1-4}alkyl, C_{2-4}alkenyl, C_{2-4}alkynyl, C_{1-4}alkoxy, C_{1-4}alkanoyl, C_{1-4}alkanoyloxy, *N*-(C_{1-4}alkyl)amino, *N,N*-(C_{1-4}alkyl)$_2$amino, C_{1-4}alkanoylamino, *N*-(C_{1-4}alkyl)carbamoyl, *N,N*-(C_{1-4}alkyl)$_2$carbamoyl, C_{1-4}alkylS(O)$_a$ wherein a is 0 to 2, C_{1-4}alkoxycarbonyl, *N*-(C_{1-4}alkyl)sulphamoyl, *N,N*-(C_{1-4}alkyl)$_2$sulphamoyl, C_{1-4}alkylsulphonylamino, carbocyclyl and heterocyclyl; wherein R^7, R^9 and R^{18} may be independently optionally substituted on carbon by one or more R^{26};

R^{11} and **R^{12}** are independently selected from hydrogen, hydroxy, amino, cyano, C_{1-4}alkyl, C_{1-4}alkoxy, *N*-(C_{1-4}alkyl)amino, *N,N*-(C_{1-4}alkyl)$_2$amino, carbocyclyl, heterocyclyl carbocyclylC_{1-4}alkyl, heterocyclylC_{1-4}alkyl; wherein R^{11} and R^{12} may be independently optionally substituted on carbon by one or more groups selected from R^{24}; and wherein if said heterocyclyl contains an -NH- moiety that nitrogen may be optionally substituted by a group selected from R^{25};

R^{24} is selected from halo, nitro, cyano, hydroxy, amino, carboxy, carbamoyl, mercapto, sulphamoyl, trifluoromethyl, trifluoromethoxy, C_{1-4}alkyl, C_{2-4}alkenyl, C_{2-4}alkynyl,

C_{1-4}alkoxy, C_{1-4}alkanoyl, C_{1-4}alkanoyloxy, *N*-(C_{1-4}alkyl)amino, *N,N*-(C_{1-4}alkyl)$_2$amino, C_{1-4}alkanoylamino, *N*-(C_{1-4}alkyl)carbamoyl, *N,N*-(C_{1-4}alkyl)$_2$carbamoyl, C_{1-4}alkylS(O)$_a$ wherein a is 0 to 2, C_{1-4}alkoxycarbonyl, *N*-(C_{1-4}alkyl)sulphamoyl, *N,N*-(C_{1-4}alkyl)$_2$sulphamoyl and C_{1-4}alkylsulphonylamino;

R^8, R^{10}, R^{17}, R^{19} and **R^{25}** are independently selected from C_{1-4}alkyl, C_{1-4}alkanoyl, C_{1-4}alkylsulphonyl, C_{1-4}alkoxycarbonyl, carbamoyl, *N*-(C_{1-4}alkyl)carbamoyl, *N,N*-(C_{1-4}alkyl)carbamoyl, benzyl, benzyloxycarbonyl, benzoyl, carbocyclyl, heterocyclyl and phenylsulphonyl; wherein R^8, R^{10}, R^{17}, R^{19} and R^{25} may be independently optionally substituted on carbon by one or more R^{27};

R^{13}, R^{14}, R^{15}, R^{16}, R^{20}, R^{21}, R^{22} and **R^{23}** are independently selected from hydrogen, phenyl, C_{1-4}alkylsulphonyl and C_{1-4}alkyl;

R^{26} and **R^{27}** are independently selected from selected from halo, nitro, cyano, hydroxy, trifluoromethoxy, trifluoromethyl, amino, carboxy, carbamoyl, mercapto, sulphamoyl, methyl, ethyl, methoxy, ethoxy, acetyl, acetoxy, methylamino, ethylamino, dimethylamino, diethylamino, *N*-methyl-*N*-ethylamino, acetylamino, *N*-methylcarbamoyl, *N*-ethylcarbamoyl, *N,N*-dimethylcarbamoyl, *N,N*-diethylcarbamoyl, *N*-methyl-*N*-ethylcarbamoyl, methylthio, ethylthio, methylsulphinyl, ethylsulphinyl, mesyl, ethylsulphonyl, methoxycarbonyl, ethoxycarbonyl, *N*-methylsulphamoyl, *N*-ethylsulphamoyl, *N,N*-dimethylsulphamoyl, *N,N*-diethylsulphamoyl or *N*-methyl-*N*-ethylsulphamoyl;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof;

in the manufacture of a medicament for use in the inhibition of 11βHSD1;

with the proviso that said compound is not (1-methyl-1-pyrid-3-ylethyl)-(pyrid-3-yl)-ketone.

2. The use of a compound, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, as claimed in claim 1 wherein Ring A is selected from phenyl, naphthyl, thienyl, furyl, thiazolyl, pyridyl, imidazolyl, benzothiazolyl or benzothienyl.

3. The use of a compound, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, as claimed in either claim 1 or claim 2 wherein R^1 is selected from halo, cyano, hydroxy, C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{1-6}alkoxy, *N,N*-(C_{1-6}alkyl)$_2$amino, C_{1-6}alkylsulphonylamino, carbocyclyl and heterocyclylC_{0-6}alkylene-Y-; or two R^1 on adjacent carbons may form an oxyC_{1-4}alkoxy group; wherein R^1 may be optionally substituted on carbon by one or more groups selected from R^7;

Y is -S(O)$_a$-, or-O-; wherein a is 0 to 2; and

R^7 is halo.

4. The use of a compound, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, as claimed in any one of claims 1-3 wherein R^2, R^3, R^4 and R^5 are independently selected from hydrogen, hydroxy, C_{1-4}alkyl, C_{1-4}alkoxy, *N*-(C_{1-4}alkyl)amino, carbocyclyl, carbocyclylC_{1-4}alkyl and heterocyclylC_{1-4}alkyl; wherein R^2, R^3, R^4 and R^5 may be independently optionally substituted on carbon by one or more groups selected from R^9; wherein

R^9 is selected from halo, cyano, C_{1-4}alkyl and *N,N*-(C_{1-4}alkyl)$_2$amino.

5. The use of a compound, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, as claimed in any one of claims 1-6 wherein X is -S(O)$_a$-, -O-, -NR^{13}-, -$NR^{15}C(O)$-, -SO_2NR^{16}- or -$NR^{16}SO_2$-; wherein a is 0 or 2; and

R^{13}, R^{15} and R^{16} are independently selected from hydrogen, phenyl, C_{1-4}alkylsulphonyl and C_{1-4}alkyl.

6. The use of a compound, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, as claimed in any one of claims 1-5 wherein Ring B is phenyl, thienyl, furyl, thiazolyl, piperidinyl, piperazinyl, pyrrolidinyl, 1,3-dihydroisoindolyl, morpholinyl, naphthyl, cyclohexyl, pyridyl, imidazolyl, 1,2,4-triazolyl, 1,3-benzodioxolyl, thiomorpholinyl, pyrimidinyl, pyrazinyl, pyridazinyl, benzimidazolyl or pyrimidinyl; wherein if Ring B contains an -NH- moiety, that nitrogen may be optionally substituted by a group selected from R^{17};

R^{17} is C_{1-4}alkyl or benzyl; wherein R^{17} may be optionally substituted on carbon by one or more R^{27}; wherein

R^{27} is methoxy.

7. The use of a compound, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, as claimed in any one of claims 1-6 wherein R^6 is a substituent on carbon and is selected from halo, hydroxy, nitro, cyano, carbamoyl, C_{1-4}alkyl, C_{1-4}alkoxy, C_{1-4}alkanoyl, *N,N*-(C_{1-4}alkyl)$_2$amino, C_{1-4}alkanoylamino, *N*-(C_{1-4}alkyl)carbamoyl, *N,N*-(C_{1-4}alkyl)$_2$carbamoyl, C_{1-4}alkylS(O)$_a$ wherein a is 0 or 2, C_{1-4}alkoxycarbonyl, *N,N*-(C_{1-4}alkyl)$_2$sulphamoyl, carbocyclyl, heterocyclyl and carbocyclylC_{0-4}alkylene-Y-; wherein R^6 may be optionally substituted on

carbon by one or more groups selected from R^{18}; and wherein if said heterocyclyl contains an -NH- moiety that nitrogen may be optionally substituted by a group selected from R^{19};

Y is -C(O) or -C(O)NR^{21}-;

R^{18} is selected from halo, cyano, hydroxy, C_{1-4}alkoxy and heterocyclyl;

R^{19} is heterocyclyl; and

R^{21} is hydrogen.

8. The use of a compound of formula (I) (as depicted in claim 1) wherein:

Ring A is selected from phenyl, naphthyl, thienyl, furyl, thiazolyl, pyridyl, imidazolyl, benzothiazolyl or benzothienyl;

R^1 is selected from halo, cyano, hydroxy, C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{1-6}alkoxy, *N,N*-(C_{1-6}alkyl)$_2$amino, C_{1-6}alkylsulphonylamino, carbocyclyl and heterocyclylC_{0-6}alkylene-Y-; or two R^1 on adjacent carbons may form an oxyC_{1-4}alkoxy group; wherein R^1 may be optionally substituted on carbon by one or more groups selected from R^7;

Y is -S(O)$_a$-, or-O-; wherein a is 0 to 2; and

R^7 is halo.

n is 0-3; wherein the values of R^1 may be the same or different;

r is 1 or 2;

s is 0;

R^2, R^3, R^4 and R^5 are independently selected from hydrogen, hydroxy, C_{1-4}alkyl, C_{1-4}alkoxy, *N*-(C_{1-4}alkyl)amino, carbocyclyl, carbocyclylC_{1-4}alkyl and heterocyclylC_{1-4}alkyl; wherein R^2, R^3, R^4 and R^5 may be independently optionally substituted on carbon by one or more groups selected from R^9; wherein

R^9 is selected from halo, cyano, C_{1-4}alkyl and *N,N*-(C_{1-4}alkyl)$_2$amino.

X is -S(O)$_a$-, -O-, -NR^{13}-, -NR^{15}C(O)-, -SO_2NR^{16}- or -$NR^{16}SO_2$-; wherein a is 0 or 2; and

R^{13}, R^{15} and R^{16} are independently selected from hydrogen, phenyl, C_{1-4}alkylsulphonyl and C_{1-4}alkyl;

q is 0 or 1;

p is 0 or 1;

Ring B is phenyl, thienyl, furyl, thiazolyl, piperidinyl, piperazinyl, pyrrolidinyl, 1,3-dihydroisoindolyl, morpholinyl, naphthyl, cyclohexyl, pyridyl, imidazolyl, 1,2,4-triazolyl,

1,3-benzodioxolyl, thiomorpholinyl, pyrimidinyl, pyrazinyl, pyridazinyl, benzimidazolyl or pyrimidinyl; wherein if Ring B contains an -NH- moiety, that nitrogen may be optionally substituted by a group selected from R^{17};

R^{17} is C_{1-4}alkyl or benzyl; wherein R^{17} may be optionally substituted on carbon by one or more R^{27}; wherein

R^{27} is methoxy;

R^6 is a substituent on carbon and is selected from halo, hydroxy, nitro, cyano, carbamoyl, C_{1-4}alkyl, C_{1-4}alkoxy, C_{1-4}alkanoyl, *N,N*-(C_{1-4}alkyl)$_2$amino, C_{1-4}alkanoylamino, *N*-(C_{1-4}alkyl)carbamoyl, *N,N*-(C_{1-4}alkyl)$_2$carbamoyl, C_{1-4}alkylS(O)$_a$ wherein a is 0 or 2, C_{1-4}alkoxycarbonyl, *N,N*-(C_{1-4}alkyl)$_2$sulphamoyl, carbocyclyl, heterocyclyl and carbocyclylC_{0-4}alkylene-Y-; wherein R^6 may be optionally substituted on carbon by one or more groups selected from R^{18}; and wherein if said heterocyclyl contains an -NH- moiety that nitrogen may be optionally substituted by a group selected from R^{19};

Y is -C(O) or -C(O)NR^{21}-;

R^{18} is selected from halo, cyano, hydroxy, C_{1-4}alkoxy and heterocyclyl;

R^{19} is heterocyclyl; and

R^{21} is hydrogen;

m is 0-3; wherein the values of R^6 may be the same or different;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof;

in the manufacture of a medicament for use in the inhibition of 11βHSD1;

with the proviso that said compound is not (1-methyl-1-pyrid-3-ylethyl)-(pyrid-3-yl)-ketone.

9. A compound of formula (I) (as depicted in claim 1) selected from:

[2-(4-chlorophenyl)-1-(pyrid-3-yl)ethyl]-(4-chlorophenyl)-ketone;

[2-(4-chlorophenyl)-1-(pyrazin-2-yl)ethyl]-(pyridin-3-yl)-ketone;

(α-methylamino-4-chlorobenzyl)-(4-chlorophenyl)-ketone;

(benzothiazol-2-yl)-(pyrrolidin-1-ylsulphonylmethyl)-ketone;

(thiazol-2-yl)-(pyrrolidin-1-ylsulphonylmethyl)-ketone;

[1-(morpholinosulphonyl)-1-methylethyl]-(4-fluorophenyl)-ketone;

(4-fluorophenyl)-[*N*-(cyclohexyl)-*N*-(isopropyl)sulphamoylmethyl]-ketone;

(4-fluorophenyl)-[*N*-(pyrid-2-yl)-*N*-(methyl)sulphamoylmethyl]-ketone;

(4-methylphenylsulphonylmethyl)-(4-cyanophenyl)-ketone;

(4-ethoxyphenoxymethyl)-(4-chlorophenyl)-ketone;

(4-chlorophenyl)-[3-(2,6-difluorobenzoylamino) propyl)]-ketone; and

(4-chlorophenyl)-[3-(4-methoxyphenylsulphonylamino)propyl)]-ketone;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

10. The use of a compound of formula **(I)** (as depicted in claim 1) selected from:

(α-methyl-α-hydroxy-4-chlorobenzyl)-(4-chlorophenyl)-ketone;

(morpholinosulphonylmethyl)-(4-fluorophenyl)-ketone;

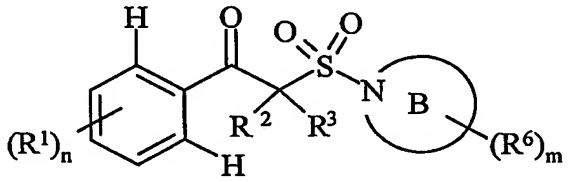
(*N*-methyl-4-methylanilinosulphonylmethyl)-(4-chlorophenyl)-ketone; and

(*N*-methyl-4-chloroanilinomethyl)-(4-chlorophenyl)-ketone;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof;

in the manufacture of a medicament for use in the inhibition of 11βHSD1.

11. A compound of formula **(Ij)**:



(Ij)

wherein:

R^1 is selected from halo, nitro, cyano, hydroxy, amino, carboxy, carbamoyl, mercapto, sulphamoyl, C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{2-6}alkenyl, C_{2-6}alkynyl, C_{1-6}alkoxy, C_{1-6}alkanoyl, C_{1-6}alkanoyloxy, *N*-(C_{1-6}alkyl)amino, *N,N*-(C_{1-6}alkyl)$_2$amino, C_{1-6}alkanoylamino, *N*-(C_{1-6}alkyl)carbamoyl, *N,N*-(C_{1-6}alkyl)$_2$carbamoyl, C_{1-6}alkylS(O)$_a$ wherein a is 0 to 2, C_{1-6}alkoxycarbonyl, *N*-(C_{1-6}alkyl)sulphamoyl, *N,N*-(C_{1-6}alkyl)$_2$sulphamoyl, C_{1-6}alkylsulphonylamino, carbocyclyl, heterocyclyl, carbocyclylC_{0-6}alkylene-Y- and heterocyclylC_{0-6}alkylene-Y-; or two R^1 on adjacent carbons may form an oxyC_{1-4}alkoxy group or a C_{3-5}alkylene group; wherein R^1 may be optionally substituted on carbon by one or more groups selected from R^7; and wherein if said heterocyclyl contains an -NH- moiety that nitrogen may be optionally substituted by a group selected from R^8;

n is 0-3; wherein the values of R^1 may be the same or different;

R^2 and **R^3** are independently selected from hydrogen, hydroxy, amino, cyano, C_{1-4}alkyl, C_{1-4}alkoxy, *N*-(C_{1-4}alkyl)amino, *N,N*-(C_{1-4}alkyl)$_2$amino, C_{1-4}alkylS(O)$_a$ wherein a is 0 to 2, C_{1-4}alkoxycarbonyl, C_{1-4}alkoxycarbonylamino, C_{1-4}alkanoyloxy, carbocyclyl,

heterocyclyl, carbocyclylC_{1-4}alkyl and heterocyclylC_{1-4}alkyl; or R^2 and R^3 together form oxo or a spiro attached heterocyclyl; wherein R^2 and R^3 may be independently optionally substituted on carbon by one or more groups selected from R^9; and wherein if said heterocyclyl contains an -NH- moiety that nitrogen may be optionally substituted by a group selected from R^{10};

Ring B is a heterocyclyl linked to the sulphonyl of formula **(Ij)** via a nitrogen atom; wherein if said heterocyclyl contains an -NH- moiety that nitrogen may be optionally substituted by a group selected from R^{17};

R^6 is a substituent on carbon and is selected from halo, nitro, cyano, hydroxy, amino, carboxy, carbamoyl, mercapto, sulphamoyl, trifluoromethyl, trifluoromethoxy, C_{1-4}alkyl, C_{2-4}alkenyl, C_{2-4}alkynyl, C_{1-4}alkoxy, C_{1-4}alkanoyl, C_{1-4}alkanoyloxy, *N*-(C_{1-4}alkyl)amino, *N,N*-(C_{1-4}alkyl)$_2$amino, C_{1-4}alkanoylamino, *N*-(C_{1-4}alkyl)carbamoyl, *N,N*-(C_{1-4}alkyl)$_2$carbamoyl, C_{1-4}alkylS(O)$_a$ wherein a is 0 to 2, C_{1-4}alkoxycarbonyl, *N*-(C_{1-4}alkyl)sulphamoyl, *N,N*-(C_{1-4}alkyl)$_2$sulphamoyl, C_{1-4}alkylsulphonylamino, carbocyclyl, heterocyclyl, carbocyclylC_{0-4}alkylene-Y- and heterocyclylC_{0-4}alkylene-Y-; wherein R^6 may be optionally substituted on carbon by one or more groups selected from R^{18}; and wherein if said heterocyclyl contains an -NH- moiety that nitrogen may be optionally substituted by a group selected from R^{19};

m is 0-3; wherein the values of R^6 may be the same or different;

Y is -S(O)$_a$-, -O-, -NR^{20}-, -C(O)-, -C(O)NR^{21}-, -NR^{22}C(O)- or -SO$_2$NR^{23}-; wherein a is 0 to 2;

R^7, R^9 and **R^{18}** are independently selected from halo, nitro, cyano, hydroxy, amino, carboxy, carbamoyl, mercapto, sulphamoyl, trifluoromethyl, trifluoromethoxy, C_{1-4}alkyl, C_{2-4}alkenyl, C_{2-4}alkynyl, C_{1-4}alkoxy, C_{1-4}alkanoyl, C_{1-4}alkanoyloxy, *N*-(C_{1-4}alkyl)amino, *N,N*-(C_{1-4}alkyl)$_2$amino, C_{1-4}alkanoylamino, *N*-(C_{1-4}alkyl)carbamoyl, *N,N*-(C_{1-4}alkyl)$_2$carbamoyl, C_{1-4}alkylS(O)$_a$ wherein a is 0 to 2, C_{1-4}alkoxycarbonyl, *N*-(C_{1-4}alkyl)sulphamoyl, *N,N*-(C_{1-4}alkyl)$_2$sulphamoyl, C_{1-4}alkylsulphonylamino, carbocyclyl and heterocyclyl; wherein R^7, R^9 and R^{18} may be independently optionally substituted on carbon by one or more R^{26};

R^8, R^{10}, R^{17} and **R^{19}** are independently selected from C_{1-4}alkyl, C_{1-4}alkanoyl, C_{1-4}alkylsulphonyl, C_{1-4}alkoxycarbonyl, carbamoyl, *N*-(C_{1-4}alkyl)carbamoyl, *N,N*-(C_{1-4}alkyl)carbamoyl, benzyl, benzyloxycarbonyl, benzoyl, carbocyclyl, heterocyclyl and

phenylsulphonyl; wherein R^8, R^{10}, R^{17} and R^{19} may be independently optionally substituted on carbon by one or more R^{27};

$\mathbf{R^{20}}$, $\mathbf{R^{21}}$, $\mathbf{R^{22}}$ and $\mathbf{R^{23}}$ are independently selected from hydrogen, phenyl, C_{1-4}alkylsulphonyl and C_{1-4}alkyl;

$\mathbf{R^{26}}$ and $\mathbf{R^{27}}$ are independently selected from selected from halo, nitro, cyano, hydroxy, trifluoromethoxy, trifluoromethyl, amino, carboxy, carbamoyl, mercapto, sulphamoyl, methyl, ethyl, methoxy, ethoxy, acetyl, acetoxy, methylamino, ethylamino, dimethylamino, diethylamino, *N*-methyl-*N*-ethylamino, acetylamino, *N*-methylcarbamoyl, *N*-ethylcarbamoyl, *N,N*-dimethylcarbamoyl, *N,N*-diethylcarbamoyl, *N*-methyl-*N*-ethylcarbamoyl, methylthio, ethylthio, methylsulphinyl, ethylsulphinyl, mesyl, ethylsulphonyl, methoxycarbonyl, ethoxycarbonyl, *N*-methylsulphamoyl, *N*-ethylsulphamoyl, *N,N*-dimethylsulphamoyl, *N,N*-diethylsulphamoyl or *N*-methyl-*N*-ethylsulphamoyl;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof;

with the proviso that said compound is not

(phenyl)-[α-(pyrrolidin-1-ylsulphonyl)benzyl]-ketone;

(phenyl)-[α-(morpholinosulphonyl)benzyl]-ketone;

(4-carbamoylphenyl)-[4-(5-chloropyridin-2-yloxy)piperidin-1-ylsulphonylmethyl]-ketone;

(4-carbamoylphenyl)-[4-(4-fluorophenyl)piperidin-1-ylsulphonylmethyl]-ketone;

(4-fluorophenyl)-[4-(5-chloropyridin-2-yloxy)piperidin-1-ylsulphonylmethyl]-ketone;

(phenyl)-[4-(5-chloropyridin-2-yloxy)piperidin-1-ylsulphonylmethyl]-ketone;

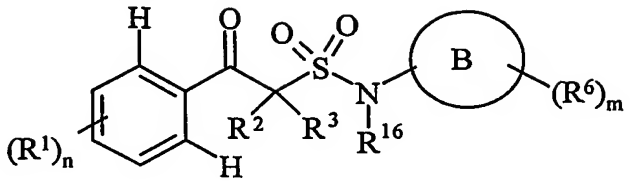
(4-chlorophenyl)-(piperazin-1-ylsulphonylmethyl)-ketone;

(4-chlorophenyl)-[4-(*t*-butoxycarbonyl)piperazin-1-ylsulphonylmethyl]-ketone;

(4-hydroxyphenyl)-(morpholinosulphonylmethyl)-ketone; or

(phenyl)-(1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinolin-2-ylsulphonylmethyl)-ketone; and with the proviso that when R^2 and R^3 are hydrogen, m is 0 and Ring B is 4-methylpiperazin-1-yl, then $(R^1)_n$ is not hydrogen, 4-fluoro, 4-nitro, 3,4-dimethoxy, 4-methoxy, 4-*t*-butyl, 4-trifluoromethyl or 4-chloro; and with the proviso that when R^2 and R^3 are hydrogen, m is 0 and Ring B is morpholino then $(R^1)_n$ is not hydrogen, 4-dimethylamino, 4-nitro, 4-methoxy, 4-*t*-butyl, 4-trifluoromethyl, 4-fluoro or 4-chloro.

12. A compound of formula (Ik):



(Ik)

wherein:

$\mathbf{R^1}$ is selected from halo, nitro, cyano, hydroxy, amino, carboxy, carbamoyl, mercapto, sulphamoyl, C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{2-6}alkenyl, C_{2-6}alkynyl, C_{1-6}alkoxy, C_{1-6}alkanoyl, C_{1-6}alkanoyloxy, *N*-(C_{1-6}alkyl)amino, *N,N*-(C_{1-6}alkyl)$_2$amino, C_{1-6}alkanoylamino, *N*-(C_{1-6}alkyl)carbamoyl, *N,N*-(C_{1-6}alkyl)$_2$carbamoyl, C_{1-6}alkylS(O)$_a$ wherein a is 0 to 2, C_{1-6}alkoxycarbonyl, *N*-(C_{1-6}alkyl)sulphamoyl, *N,N*-(C_{1-6}alkyl)$_2$sulphamoyl, C_{1-6}alkylsulphonylamino, carbocyclyl, heterocyclyl, carbocyclylC_{0-6}alkylene-Y- and heterocyclylC_{0-6}alkylene-Y-; or two R^1 on adjacent carbons may form an oxyC_{1-4}alkoxy group or a C_{3-5}alkylene group; wherein R^1 may be optionally substituted on carbon by one or more groups selected from R^7; and wherein if said heterocyclyl contains an -NH- moiety that nitrogen may be optionally substituted by a group selected from R^8;

n is 0-3; wherein the values of R^1 may be the same or different;

$\mathbf{R^2}$ and $\mathbf{R^3}$ are independently selected from hydrogen, hydroxy, amino, cyano, C_{1-4}alkyl, C_{1-4}alkoxy, *N*-(C_{1-4}alkyl)amino, *N,N*-(C_{1-4}alkyl)$_2$amino, C_{1-4}alkylS(O)$_a$ wherein a is 0 to 2, C_{1-4}alkoxycarbonyl, C_{1-4}alkoxycarbonylamino, C_{1-4}alkanoyloxy, carbocyclyl, heterocyclyl, carbocyclylC_{1-4}alkyl and heterocyclylC_{1-4}alkyl; or R^2 and R^3 together form oxo or a spiro attached heterocyclyl; wherein R^2 and R^3 may be independently optionally substituted on carbon by one or more groups selected from R^9; and wherein if said heterocyclyl contains an -NH- moiety that nitrogen may be optionally substituted by a group selected from R^{10};

Ring B is carbocyclyl or heterocyclyl; wherein if said heterocyclyl contains an -NH- moiety that nitrogen may be optionally substituted by a group selected from R^{17};

$\mathbf{R^6}$ is a substituent on carbon and is selected from halo, nitro, cyano, hydroxy, amino, carboxy, carbamoyl, mercapto, sulphamoyl, trifluoromethyl, trifluoromethoxy, C_{1-4}alkyl, C_{2-4}alkenyl, C_{2-4}alkynyl, C_{1-4}alkoxy, C_{1-4}alkanoyl, C_{1-4}alkanoyloxy, *N*-(C_{1-4}alkyl)amino, *N,N*-(C_{1-4}alkyl)$_2$amino, C_{1-4}alkanoylamino, *N*-(C_{1-4}alkyl)carbamoyl, *N,N*-(C_{1-4}alkyl)$_2$carbamoyl, C_{1-4}alkylS(O)$_a$ wherein a is 0 to 2, C_{1-4}alkoxycarbonyl,

N-(C_{1-4}alkyl)sulphamoyl, *N,N*-(C_{1-4}alkyl)$_2$sulphamoyl, C_{1-4}alkylsulphonylamino, carbocyclyl, heterocyclyl, carbocyclylC_{0-4}alkylene-Y- and heterocyclylC_{0-4}alkylene-Y-; wherein R^6 may be optionally substituted on carbon by one or more groups selected from R^{18}; and wherein if said heterocyclyl contains an -NH- moiety that nitrogen may be optionally substituted by a group selected from R^{19};

m is 0-3; wherein the values of R^6 may be the same or different;

Y is -$S(O)_a$-, -O-, -NR^{20}-, -C(O)-, -C(O)NR^{21}-, -NR^{22}C(O)- or -SO_2NR^{23}-; wherein a is 0 to 2;

R^7, **R^9** and **R^{18}** are independently selected from halo, nitro, cyano, hydroxy, amino, carboxy, carbamoyl, mercapto, sulphamoyl, trifluoromethyl, trifluoromethoxy, C_{1-4}alkyl, C_{2-4}alkenyl, C_{2-4}alkynyl, C_{1-4}alkoxy, C_{1-4}alkanoyl, C_{1-4}alkanoyloxy, *N*-(C_{1-4}alkyl)amino, *N,N*-(C_{1-4}alkyl)$_2$amino, C_{1-4}alkanoylamino, *N*-(C_{1-4}alkyl)carbamoyl, *N,N*-(C_{1-4}alkyl)$_2$carbamoyl, C_{1-4}alkyl$S(O)_a$ wherein a is 0 to 2, C_{1-4}alkoxycarbonyl, *N*-(C_{1-4}alkyl)sulphamoyl, *N,N*-(C_{1-4}alkyl)$_2$sulphamoyl, C_{1-4}alkylsulphonylamino, carbocyclyl and heterocyclyl; wherein R^7, R^9 and R^{18} may be independently optionally substituted on carbon by one or more R^{26};

R^8, **R^{10}**, **R^{17}** and **R^{19}** are independently selected from C_{1-4}alkyl, C_{1-4}alkanoyl, C_{1-4}alkylsulphonyl, C_{1-4}alkoxycarbonyl, carbamoyl, *N*-(C_{1-4}alkyl)carbamoyl, *N,N*-(C_{1-4}alkyl)carbamoyl, benzyl, benzyloxycarbonyl, benzoyl, carbocyclyl, heterocyclyl and phenylsulphonyl; wherein R^8, R^{10}, R^{17} and R^{19} may be independently optionally substituted on carbon by one or more R^{27};

R^{16}, **R^{20}**, **R^{21}**, **R^{22}** and **R^{23}** are independently selected from hydrogen, phenyl, C_{1-4}alkylsulphonyl and C_{1-4}alkyl;

R^{26} and **R^{27}** are independently selected from selected from halo, nitro, cyano, hydroxy, trifluoromethoxy, trifluoromethyl, amino, carboxy, carbamoyl, mercapto, sulphamoyl, methyl, ethyl, methoxy, ethoxy, acetyl, acetoxy, methylamino, ethylamino, dimethylamino, diethylamino, *N*-methyl-*N*-ethylamino, acetylamino, *N*-methylcarbamoyl, *N*-ethylcarbamoyl, *N,N*-dimethylcarbamoyl, *N,N*-diethylcarbamoyl, *N*-methyl-*N*-ethylcarbamoyl, methylthio, ethylthio, methylsulphinyl, ethylsulphinyl, mesyl, ethylsulphonyl, methoxycarbonyl, ethoxycarbonyl, *N*-methylsulphamoyl, *N*-ethylsulphamoyl, *N,N*-dimethylsulphamoyl, *N,N*-diethylsulphamoyl or *N*-methyl-*N*-ethylsulphamoyl;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof;

with the proviso that said compound is not

(phenyl)-(5-methylpyrazol-3-ylaminosulphonylmethyl)-ketone;

(phenyl)-[(2-methyl-6-methoxy-2,3-dihydrobenzofuran-4-yl)aminosulphonylmethyl]-ketone;

(phenyl)-(1-phenyl-3-methylpyrazol-5-ylaminosulphonylmethyl)-ketone;

(phenyl)-[1-(cyclohexyl-*N*-methylaminosulphonyl)ethyl]-ketone;

(phenyl)-[1-(phenyl-*N*-methylaminosulphonyl)ethyl]-ketone;

(phenyl)-(cyclohexylaminosulphonylmethyl)-ketone;

(phenyl)-[(2-phenyl-4-acetyl-5-methylimidazol-3-yl]-*N*-methylaminosulphonylmethyl]-keton e; (phenyl)-[(2-phenyl-4-acetyl-5-methylimidazol-3-yl]aminosulphonylmethyl]-ketone;

(phenyl)-(2,4,5,6,7,8-hexahydrocycloheptapyrazol-3-ylaminosulphonylmethyl]-ketone;

(phenyl)-(4,5,6,7-tetrahydro-2H-indazol-3-ylaminosulphonylmethyl]-ketone;

(phenyl)-[(4-phenyl-5-methylpyrazol-3-yl)aminosulphonylmethyl]-ketone;

(phenyl)-[3-(1-carboxymethyl-3-methyl-4-oxo-1,2,3,4-tetrahydrophthalazin-2-yl)anilinosulph onylmethyl]-ketone;

(phenyl)-{3-[1-(methoxycarbonylmethyl)-3-methyl-4-oxo-1,2,3,4-tetrahydrophthalazin-2-yl]a nilinosulphonylmethyl}-ketone; (phenyl)-(4-methylanilinosulphonylmethyl)-ketone;

(phenyl)-(2-benzoyl-4-chloroanilinosulphonylmethyl)-ketone;

(phenyl)-(2,3-dimethylanilinosulphonylmethyl)-ketone;

(phenyl)-(3,4-dimethylanilinosulphonylmethyl)-ketone;

(phenyl)-(3-methylanilinosulphonylmethyl)-ketone;

(phenyl)-(3-methoxyanilinosulphonylmethyl)-ketone;

(phenyl)-(anilinosulphonylmethyl)-ketone; (phenyl)-(2-acetylanilinosulphonylmethyl)-ketone;

or (phenyl)-[α-(*N*-ethylanilinosulphonyl)benzyl]-ketone.

13. A pharmaceutical composition which comprises a compound of formula **(I)**, **(Ij)** or **(Ik)**, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, as claimed in any one of claims 9, 11 or 12, in association with a pharmaceutically-acceptable diluent or carrier.

14. A compound of the formula **(I)**, **(Ij)** or **(Ik)**, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, as claimed in any one of claims 9, 11 or 12, for use in a method of prophylactic or therapeutic treatment of a warm-blooded animal, such as man.

15. A compound of the formula **(I)**, **(Ij)** or **(Ik)**, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, as claimed in any one of claims 9, 11 or 12, for use as a medicament.

16. The use of a compound of the formula **(I)**, **(Ij)** or **(Ik)**, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, as claimed in any one of claims 9, 11 or 12, in the manufacture of a medicament for use in the production of an 11βHSD1 inhibitory effect in a warm-blooded animal, such as man.

17. The use of a compound as claimed in any one of claims 1-8, 10 or 16 wherein production of, or producing an, 11βHSD1 inhibitory effect refers to the treatment of metabolic syndrome.

18. The use of a compound as claimed in any one of claims 1-8, 10 or 16 wherein production of, or producing an, 11βHSD1 inhibitory effect refers to the treatment of diabetes, obesity, hyperlipidaemia, hyperglycaemia, hyperinsulinemia or hypertension, particularly diabetes and obesity.

19. The use of a compound as claimed in any one of claims 1-8, 10 or 16 wherein production of, or producing an, 11βHSD1 inhibitory effect refers to the treatment of glaucoma, osteoporosis, tuberculosis, dementia, cognitive disorders or depression.

20. A method for producing an 11βHSD1 inhibitory effect in a warm-blooded animal, such as man, in need of such treatment which comprises administering to said animal an effective amount of a compound of formula **(I)**, as claimed in any one of claims 1-10, or a compound of formula **(Ik)** as claimed in claim 11, or a compound of formula **(Ij)** as claimed in claim 12, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.